

OLC

78-0791/1

MR

10 April 1978

NOTE FOR:   
Acting Chief/Liaison Staff

FROM:   
Acting Chief/CGR Staff

Ed:

1. Would you please have someone clear the release of the attached Memorandum for the President from DCI John A. McCone, dated 14 May 1963, with Senator Stennis or his staff to be certain that he has no problems with its being declassified and released to a requester (under provisions of Section 5(C), Executive Order 11652 - Mandatory Classification Review). The Agency has no objections to its release.

2. Our present OLC policy will respect any objections by Members of Congress to the release of documents of Congressional interest if they feel matters involving them should remain confidential. o

Attachment



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NLK-77-997

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

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14 May 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

With reference to your note of 13 May concerning the Stennis Subcommittee report, I am informed confidentially that certain members of the Subcommittee insisted on reporting the highest defensible figure of Soviet troops in Cuba and that agreement was finally reached on "17,500 as a minimum."

I last testified before the Subcommittee on 12 March and this was the final Committee hearing. I did not touch, at that time, on the number of withdrawals. Originally the Subcommittee report was to have been current as of 12 March but it was subsequently decided to make it current as of the date of release, 9 May. In the interim, representatives from CIA and DIA who were working with the Subcommittee staff gave the staff a statement reflecting our belief that between 4,000 and 5,000 Soviet personnel had departed Cuba since the first of the year. The reason for not subtracting this number from the estimated total was also explained on the ground that the total was reached from a synthesis of all available intelligence including tables of organization of the suspected Soviet units we observed in Cuba and that did not change.

As a matter of fact, we still have very little hard intelligence on the total number of Soviets in Cuba. We continue to receive reports, which we are inclined to dismiss as irresponsible, of very large numbers of Soviets in Cuba and also of the withdrawals of very large numbers. For example, we have in the last 30 days received reports that 40,000 to 50,000 Soviets are still there. We have also recently received a report that 25,000 Soviets had left by 3 April. We are inclined to discount such reports.

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Our conclusion at the moment is that there has been a reduction by some 20 to 30 percent from our earlier estimate of 17,500. This estimate is arrived at from an analysis of all available current intelligence. However, as you know, we have no total head-count.



JOHN A. McCONE  
Director

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